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Message Text

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42
ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 AID-20

OMB-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 /118 W
---------- 070050
O R 231337Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5854
INFO USCINCEUR
CSAF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
CINCUSNAVEUR
CSA WASHDC
CMC WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC
COMSIXTHFLT
CINCLANT NORFOLK
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK
COMINEWARFARE CHARLESTON
MAC SCOTT AFB

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1498

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG US BEXP
SUBJECT: PUBLIC MEDIA INTEREST IN SUEZ CANAL
MINE COUNTERMEASURES OPERATION

REF: STATE 55515

1. WHEN TAKING GENERAL GUAY TO MEET FAHMY TODAY,
I MENTIONED TO HIM STATE/DOD INTEREST IN ARRANGING AN
OPEN POLICY RESPONSIVE TO LEGITIMATE PRESS INTEREST.
(THIS IS NOT A SUBJECT WHICH SHOULD BE RAISED INITIALLY
AT "WORKING LEVEL.")
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2. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, FAHMY AGREED ON DESIRABILITY
OF ACCOMMODATING MEDIA INTEREST AND FIRST SUGGESTED
THIS SHOULD BE ARRANGED THROUGH SCA HEAD MASHHOUR. I
EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT MASHHOUR HAS THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE
THE KIND OF DECISIONS THAT ARE INVOLVED IN WHAT WE ARE
ASKING AND GAVE FAHMY AN AIDE MEMOIRE SETTING FORTH OUR
VARIOUS REQUIREMENTS AS INDICATED IN REFTEL. AS FAHMY
WAS READING IT, I NOTED THAT GENERAL GUAY AND VISITING
ADMIRAL MCCAULEY ARE SCHEDULED TO HAVE A MEETING WITH
MARSHAL ISMAIL TOMORROW MORNING. PERHAPS THEY COULD
DISCUSS THE SUBJECT AT THAT TIME WITH THE MARSHAL.

3. FAHMY'S IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS NEGATIVE. GIVEN
WHAT WE ARE ASKING, HE OPINED, MY AIDE MEMOIRE SHOULD
FIRST BE SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT. IF SADAT'S REACTION
WAS POSITIVE, HE WOULD INSTRUCT THE MARSHAL. OTHERWISE,
FAHMY FEARED, THE MARSHAL WOULD ONLY "CREATE DIFFICULTIES."

4. FAHMY UNDERTOOK TO GET THE AIDE MEOIRE TO THE
PRESIDENT TODAY, AND PROMISED TO LET US KNOW AS SOON
AS A REPLY IS RECEIVED.
EILTS

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